



Blake Trask, Chair
 Craig Benjamin, Vice Chair
 Max Hepp-Buchanan, Secretary
 Ann Boyd
 Evan Brown
 Allegra Calder
 Matthew Crane
 Sean Cryan
 Gabe Grijalva
 Kelsey Jones-Casey
 Neal Komedal
 Jean White

Seattle Bicycle Advisory Board Meeting Minutes

Date/Time: August 4, 2010/6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.
Chair: Blake Trask
Recorder: Max Hepp-Buchanan
Location: Seattle City Hall, L204

Minutes Distribution List:

See Attachment A

Members Present:

Ann Boyd; Allegra Calder; Matthew Crane; Sean Cryan; Gabe Grijalva; Max Hepp-Buchanan (Secretary); Kelsey Jones-Casey; Neal Komedal; Blake Trask (Chair); Jean White

Members Absent:

Craig Benjamin (Vice Chair); Evan Brown; Jean White

Guests:

Kristen Lohse (SPAB); Dylan Ahearn (Beacon Bikes); Merlin Rainwater; Jessica Szelag (Commute Seattle); Zack Howard (Commute Seattle); Eric Tweit (SDOT); Liam Olsen (KPFF Engineers); DaynaLoeffler; Charles Redell; Doug Beeman; AiliLePard; David Amiton

MEETING CALL TO ORDER

- Meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m. by Blake Trask.

PUBLIC COMMENT

- Members of the public:
 - AiliLePard of West Seattle commented on the increased level of traffic on surface streets due to street closures near the West Seattle Bridge. The intersection of S Hanford St and E Marginal Way is a major problem. She questioned when and if the repainting project on the lower end of the West Seattle Bridge would happen and noted that it was supposed to occur already.
 - Merlin Rainwater gave several examples of changes she has inspired in the treatment of cyclists by local businesses and organizations through persistent phone calls and emails. She noted that individuals can indeed make a difference if you have tenacity to “nag” those who you want to change their behavior.
 - The Seattle Bicycle Music Festival gave a short presentation on their planned events for this summer. They will be performing on Saturday, September 11 at various parks throughout the city as a fundraising event to generate more community support. The Festival was inspired by the

The Seattle Bicycle Advisory Board shall advise the City Council, the Mayor, and all departments and offices of the city on matters related to bicycling, and the impacts which actions by the city may have upon bicycling; and shall have opportunity to contribute to all aspects of the city's planning processes insofar as they relate to bicycling.

-City Council
 Resolution 25534

- Pleasant Revolution Tour of 2009. The goal of the Festival is to challenge people's thinking about using bicycles as transportation and encourage conservationism. The sound system is pedal-powered by people in the audience.

PRESENTATIONS

Time: 6:15 p.m.

Topic: Mercer West Corridor Update and Deep Bore Tunnel North Portal Planning Briefing

Presenter: Eric Tweit, SDOT

Purpose: Provide an update on planning of Mercer corridor and North Portal projects

Findings / Critical Points:

- The location of the Mercer west corridor project is between I-5 and Elliot Ave W.
- The Mercer underpass at Aurora Ave N will be widened and Mercer St will become a two-way street, as will Roy St.
- There is a planned bike/pedestrian path along Mercer St but it is undecided if the paths will be separated from each other.
- There are two options for 6th Ave N – a straight alignment option and a curved alignment option.
- Straight alignment option for 6th Ave N:
 - Turning radius from eastbound Mercer St to 6th Ave N is designed to accommodate a 75 foot truck.
 - 11 foot lane widths planned for 6th Ave N.
 - Advantages of the straight alignment option are that all movements allowed at the intersection of 6th Ave N and Mercer St; good opportunity to install bicycle facilities.
 - A disadvantage of the straight alignment option is that it bisects the Gates Foundation campus, which could result in higher costs to the City.
- Curved alignment option for 6th Ave N:
 - Half signal planned for intersection of 6th Ave N and Mercer St.
 - Left turns from 6th Ave N to westbound Mercer St will be allowed into a protected lane that merges into Mercer St.
 - Pedestrian crossings across Mercer St will be limited to Taylor Ave N and Dexter Ave N with possible grade separated crossings via Aurora Ave N.
 - Advantages the of curved alignment option include no “tunnel” over 6th Ave N created by Gates Foundation building; lower cost to the City.
 - A disadvantage of the curved alignment is that potential bicycle facilities on 6th Ave N lose their value, the street grid is negatively impacted, and pedestrian crossings will not be allowed at the intersection of 6th and Mercer.
- The City's goal is to reconnect the neighborhoods as much as possible during this project.
- Bike lanes are possible on Thomas St or Harrison St or both.

SBAB Comments/Questions:

- This is a good opportunity to create a bicycle corridor on 6th Ave N.
- Left turns from 6th Ave N onto westbound Mercer St requires cars to merge into downhill traveling, fast moving traffic – seems like an unnecessary risk.
- Some SBAB members feel like keeping the city's grid intact and restoring it when possible is an important guideline to be followed throughout this project – straight alignment is preferred.
- Other SBAB members feel like it is important to keep the City's costs down – curved alignment preferred.

- Some SBAB members feel like the low volumes and large right-of-way of 6th Ave N makes it a prime candidate for a cycle track and could become a preferred route for travel between downtown and uptown.
- Other SBAB members note that 5th Ave N and Dexter Ave N could be improved as north-south bicycle corridors.

SBAB Recommendations:

- SBAB is interested in being pragmatic and amenable to the Gates Foundation but recommends the City to explore 6th Ave N connections between downtown and uptown.
- SBAB recommends that SDOT further examine 5th Ave N as a major downtown/uptown bike corridor.

Action Item or Follow Up:

- SDOT and SBAB will hold a small group work session together to further discuss issues surrounding the west Mercer St corridor and deep bore tunnel North Portal. SDOT will contact SBAB about this opportunity.

Time: 7:15 p.m.

Topic: Commute Seattle Bike Inventory Update and Next Steps

Presenter: Jessica Szelag and Zack Howard, Commute Seattle

Purpose: Review the Seattle bicycle facility inventory and discuss methodology

Findings / Critical Points:

- The goals of the inventory are to: create a complete inventory of private facilities for bicycle commuting in Seattle's Center City; and assess issues people have that inhibit bike commuting.
- The deliverables of the inventory are: a gap analysis of parking inventory (report, map); and a three-year strategic plan for outreach and encouragement.
- Task 1 of the project is to identify inventory approach and potential delivery partners – main focus of presentation.
- The inventory intends to measure the capacity of all infrastructure designed for bicycle parking and located on private property within Center City Seattle.
- The assessment tool is a nine-point grading system that categorizes privately-owned parking based on security, weather protection, and quality.
 - Appropriate commuter bicycle parking: 8-9 points.
 - Adequate commuter bicycle parking: 4-7 points.
 - Inadequate commuter bicycle parking: 0-3 points.

SBAB Recommendations:

- Try to capture and record qualitative elements of bicycle parking conditions whenever possible.

Action Item or Follow Up:

- SBAB members will meet with Zack Howard to further discuss methodology and data collection requirement.

Time: 7:40 p.m.

Topic: SDOT Update

Presenter: Doug Cox, SDOT

Purpose: Update SBAB on SDOT's progress on Bicycle Master Plan implementation in 2010

Findings / Critical Points:

- SDOT is working on installing bike racks already in the system – no new installations to report.
 - Advanced stop lines ("bike boxes") are planned for installation at several key intersections in Seattle.
 - Locations of bike boxes were chosen based on amount of left turns made by cyclists.
 - Greenwood and Rainier Valley Summer Streets events are coming up in the next couple of weeks.
 - PSRC received enough funding to meet the level required to build the Thomas St overpass.
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Time: 7:47 p.m.

Topic: Committee and/or Board Member Updates

Presenters: SBAB Members

Purpose: Provide updates on Committee meetings attended by SBAB members

Findings / Critical Points:

- Joint Technical Committee for SR-520 Replacement:
 - Final recommendations are due by August 26.
 - The team is trying to define the project footprints that need to occur for bicycle travel but specific design of facilities have not been identified – beyond scope.
 - Main SBAB concerns are with southbound Montlake Blvd bicycle traffic.

MEETING ADJOURNMENT

- Blake Trask adjourned the meeting at 8:05 p.m.

ATTACHMENT A

July Meeting Minutes Distribution List:

Michael McGinn, Mayor, City of Seattle

Rebecca Deehr, Strategic Advisor for Policy and Outreach, Office of the Mayor

City Councilmember Tom Rasmussen, Transportation Committee Chair

Peter Hahn, Director, Seattle Department of Transportation (SDOT)

Sam Woods, Manager, Bicycle, Pedestrian & Neighborhood Program & Project Development, SDOT

Diane Sugimura, Director, Department of Planning and Development (DPD)

Stella Chao, Director, Department of Neighborhoods (DoN)

Doug Cox, Assistant Transportation Planner, SDOT Liaison

Eric Widstrand, Traffic Operations Manager, SDOT

Meeting Presenters: Eric Tweit, SDOT; Jessica Szlag, Commute Seattle; Zack Howard, Commute Seattle

City of Seattle Council Transportation Committee Members

City of Seattle Neighborhood District Coordinators

Seattle Bicycle Advisory Board (SBAB) Board Members

Members of the Public Meeting Attendees